

Step 2. Project Abstract

Applicant Name: Anaconda-Deer Lodge County (ADLC)

Project Title: East Third Street and South Birch Water Main Replacements

Project Description and Benefits to Restoration:

Constrained by mining-related groundwater contamination, Anaconda-Deer Lodge County (ADLC) continues its aggressive water main replacement program to reduce leakage as a surrogate for developing addition supply. These endeavors are proposed as “replacement” projects to offset irreparable damage to Anaconda area water resources.

UCFRB Restoration grants have been pivotal to these efforts since 2002, funding the replacement of 31,874 feet of mains to date, beginning with critical transmission mains. But an additional 51,500 feet of century-old, leaking, thin-walled steel distribution mains dating from the era of the Anaconda Company remain in the system. Even with the recent main upgrades, 1.5 mgd of leakage likely remains in the system, or almost one-fourth of the current 6.6 mgd well field supply. Replacement of mains has been prioritized and scheduled in ADLC’s adopted water master plan, the *Municipal Water System Preliminary Engineering Report* (HKM Engineering, 2004).

Following those priorities, ADLC is requesting funding for its fifth consecutive water project. The East Third Street and South Birch upgrade proposes 5,670 feet of replacement using new eight- and six-inch ductile iron pipe, plus a booster pump station on South Birch to address low pressure and loss of service problems. On East Third 16 leaks or repairs are documented in recent years, with one leak alone of 20 gpm. The new mains are estimated to conserve up to 54 million gallons of water per year previously lost to leakage, representing a potential annual cost savings of \$57,800. A post-project Monitoring Plan to reevaluate leakage after the 2003-2007 replacements is included in the project.

No long term adverse environmental impacts are predicted from the project, and substantial permanent benefits to Anaconda’s infrastructure and residents will result. Transient impacts associated with project construction have been identified, and suitable mitigation for these is proposed. The East Third Street corridor contains the rail bed from an abandoned streetcar line, which is expected to result in some RCRA waste handling and disposal from old creosote ties.

The proposed East Third Street and South Birch main replacements are estimated to cost \$2,028,342. ADLC is proposing \$64,080 of in-kind services as match, and has already spent \$5,500 for preliminary engineering to accurately conceptualize the project. Unlike in its past proposals, the City-County is unable to afford an additional cash contribution this year as grant match. This results from the unanticipated reallocation of available cash in its Water Enterprise Fund to reestablish adequate reserves and excess coverage for its 1992 bond issue for well field and storage tank improvements. This corrective fiscal adjustment was required in the wake of a February 2006 audit. ADLC intends to resume significant cash match in its future grant

proposals to the NRD Program, and is setting aside \$10,000 per month beginning in March 2006 for that purpose.

This project proposal is an essential next step in Anaconda's critical water infrastructure upgrades. It represents fiscally and environmentally responsible planning on the part of the City-County to mitigate resource losses due to past mining-related degradation.